

Appl. No. : 09/838,949
Filed : April 19, 2001

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2003.

The Examiner indicated the rejection of pending Claims 39-50 as either anticipated by Leake (U.S. Patent No. 5,624,119) or as unpatentable over Leake in further view of Makovic et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,442,012).

Independent Claim 29

By the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Leake discloses all of the elements of Claim 29 except for the images being of die. Applicant has amended Claim 29 to further clarify the subject-matter claimed and asserts that Claim 29 is allowable.

Among other things, Claim 29 recites providing a row of player symbols and a corresponding row of main symbols, where the number of symbols in each row are the same and at least two. Claim 29 further recites the step of "comparing said main symbols in each of said positions of said row of main symbols to the corresponding player symbols in one of said rows of said matrix of player game symbols." Thus, in accordance with Claim 29, a row of at least two main game symbols are compared to a corresponding row of the same number of player symbols, the comparison of the symbols occurring by corresponding positions of the symbols in the main and player rows.

Leake does not disclose displaying more than one symbol in a row, and then comparing those symbols to those in corresponding positions in a row of the player's symbols. Instead, Leake

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discloses calling a single symbol and then determining if that symbol appears anywhere in a column of the player's set of symbols.

Independent Claim 39

Applicant has amended Claim 39. Applicant asserts that Claim 39 is allowable over the prior art. Claim 39 recites the steps of:

displaying a set of main symbols to said players, said set of main symbols comprising a row of n symbols, said symbols selected from said group of symbols;
comparing all the n symbols of the row of main symbols to all of the n symbols of a corresponding row of player game symbols;

determining if said main symbols in corresponding positions of said row of player symbols match

As such, Claim 39 recites a game in which all of the symbols in one row (main game) are compared to all of the corresponding symbols of another row (player symbols) to determine if any of the symbols in corresponding positions of the two rows match one another.

Once again, Applicant asserts that Leake does not teach or suggest such a configuration.

Independent Claim 47

Applicant has amended Claim 47. Applicant asserts that Claim 47 is allowable over the prior art, including Leake, for similar reasons to Claim 39.

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Dependent Claims 30-38, 40-46 and 48-50

These claims are believed allowable for at least the reason they depend from an allowable independent claim. Applicant asserts, however, that these claims also define patentable subject-matter.

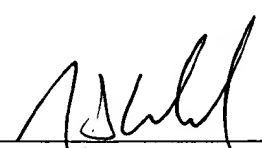
For example, Claim 35 recites a game in which the set of main symbols which is displayed has the same number of rows as the number of rows of player symbols, and the corresponding multiple rows of main symbols and player symbols are compared. Applicant asserts that the prior art, including Leake, does not disclose such.

Summary

Applicant asserts that Claims 29-50 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 5, 2004 By: _____


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